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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5499
INFO RUCNAFG/AFGHANISTAN COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 KABUL 000503

SIPDIS

EO 12958 DECL: 02/08/2020
TAGS PGOV, PREL, AF
SUBJECT: MULLAH ZAEFF: PEACE NOW A NECESSITY

REF: A. KABUL 0484 B. KABUL 0441
KABUL 00000503 001.2 OF 002

Classified By: Acting Deputy Ambassador Joseph A. Mussomeli; Reasons (b) and (d)

¶1. (S) Summary: Former Taliban Ambassador to Pakistan Abdul Salam Zaeef advocates peace as "the only option now" for Afghanistan. While encour

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Negotiations First
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¶2. (S) In a recent meeting on February 8 with former Taliban Ambassador to Pakistan Abdul Salam Zaeef at his modest residence in Kabul's Pasti

¶3. (S) Zaeef posited that the peace process must first start with negotiations among all involved parties, including armed and disarmed Taliba

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Taliban Saved Afghanistan from Disintegration
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¶4. (S) While most Afghans want an end to hostilities, Zaeef said, warlords do not and they were the reason the Taliban seized control of the c

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Taliban Are Not Misogynists
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¶5. (S) Like Muttawakil (Ref. A), Zaeef asserted that the Taliban were not misogynists who opposed women's education and the right to work, as
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the changes must be so far-reaching, such as reversing equal protections for women and elevating Sharia law above other constitutional provisic

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Foreigners Will Never Win A Military Victory
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¶6. (S) Responding to our reference to extreme versus moderate Taliban elements, Zaeef suggested that we should instead differentiate the Talik

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Comment
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¶7. (S) Zaeef has been relatively quiet during the government's formulation of the reintegration/reconciliation policy unveiled in London, alth

¶8. (S) In a February 5 Inter Press Service (IPS) article by Gareth Porter, titled "Peace Talks May Follow Ex-Taliban Mediators Plan," Porter c